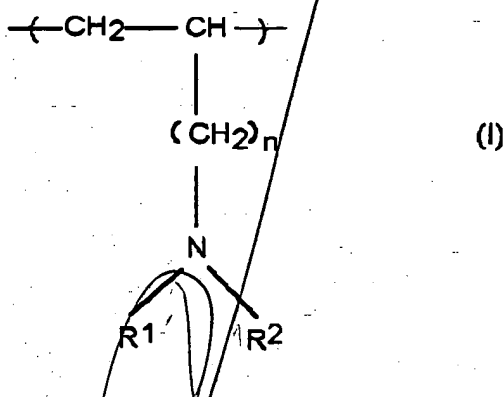


What is claimed is:

1. An ink composition comprising an alkali-soluble colorant, a water-soluble organic solvent, water, and a cationic, water-soluble resin, ^{consisting essentially of} the cationic, water-soluble resin ^{comprising} a repeating unit represented by the following formula (I):



wherein R^1 and R^2 which may be the same or different represent a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-5} alkyl group, provided that R^1 and R^2 do not simultaneously represent a hydrogen atom; and

n is 0, 1, or 2.

2. The ink composition according to claim 1, wherein the cationic, water-soluble resin has an average molecular weight of 300 to 10,000.

3. The ink composition according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the cationic, water-soluble resin is an acid addition salt.

4. The ink composition according to ^{claim 1} ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~, which further comprises a base.

5. The ink composition according to ^{claim 1} ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~, wherein the base is a hydroxide of an alkali metal or an alkaline earth metal.

6. The ink composition according to ^{claim 1} ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~, wherein both R_1 and R_2 in the repeating unit represented by the formula (I) represent a methyl group.

7. The ink composition according to ~~any one of~~ ^{claims} ~~claims~~ 1 to 6, wherein n is 1.

8. The ink composition according to ~~any one of claims~~^{claim 1} ~~1 to 7~~, wherein the water-soluble organic solvent has a lower vapor pressure than water.

9. The ink composition according to ~~any one of claims~~^{claim 1} ~~1 to 8~~, wherein the water-soluble organic solvent is contained in an amount of 5 to 50% by weight based on the total amount of the ink.

10. The ink composition according to ^{claim 1} ~~any one of claims~~
~~1 to 9~~, wherein the colorant is a dye or a pigment.

11. The ink composition according to ~~any one of claims~~^{claim 1} ~~1 to 10~~, which further comprises a water-soluble resin other than the cationic, water-soluble resin.

12. An ink set comprising a black ink, a yellow ink, a cyan ink, and a magenta ink, said black, yellow, cyan, and magenta inks each independently being the ink composition according to any one of claims 1 to 11,

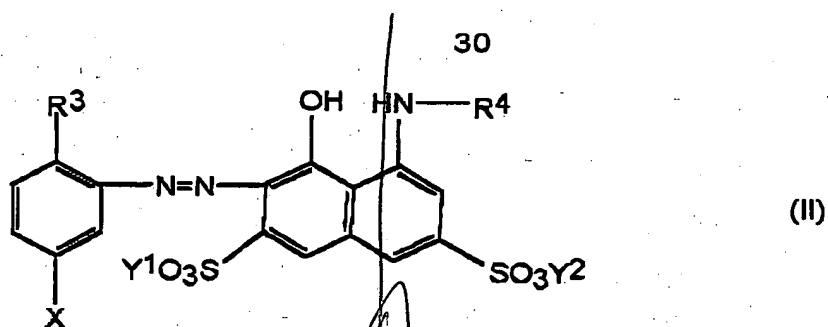
the black ink comprising a colorant selected from a group of dyes consisting of C.I. Direct Black 19, 35, 154, 168, 171, and 195 and C.I. Food Black 2,

the yellow ink comprising a colorant selected from a group of dyes consisting of C.I. Direct Yellow 50, 55, 86, 132, 142, and 144 and C.I. Acid Yellow 23.

the cyan ink comprising a colorant selected from a group of dyes consisting of C.I. Direct Blue 86, 87, and 199 and C.I. Acid Blue 9 and 249,

the magenta ink comprising a colorant selected from a group of dyes consisting of C.I. Direct Red 9 and 227, C.I. Acid Red 52 and 289, and dyes represented by the following structural formula (II):

A A



wherein R^3 and R^4 represent a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-5} alkyl group, an aryl group, a C_{1-5} alkoxy group, or a phenoxy group or a derivative thereof, a triazine ring or a derivative thereof, a carboxyl group or a salt thereof, or a sulfonyl group or a derivative thereof;

X represents a hydrogen or halogen atom; and

Y^1 and Y^2 which may be the same or different represent an alkali metal atom, ammonium, or a C_{1-5} alkylammonium.

13. An ink set comprising a first ink composition or a group of first ink compositions and a second ink composition or a group of second ink compositions,

the first ink composition being the ink composition according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 11,~~ ^{claim 1}

the second ink composition being an ink composition comprising an anionic material.

14. The ink set according to claim 13, wherein the group of first ink compositions comprises a yellow ink, a magenta ink, and a cyan ink and the second ink composition is a black ink.

15. The ink set according to claim 13, wherein the first ink composition is a black ink and the second group of ink compositions comprises a yellow ink, a magenta ink, and a cyan ink.

16. The ink set according to ~~any one of claims 13 to 15,~~ ^{claim 13} wherein the anionic material contained in the second ink composition is an anionic, water-soluble resin.

17. The ink set according to any one of claims 16, wherein the colorant contained in the second ink composition is a pigment.

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A2

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18. The ink set according to ^{claim 13} ~~any one of claims 13 to 15~~, wherein the anionic material in the second ink composition is a pigment having an anionic functional group on its surface.

19. A recording method comprising the step of: ^{according to claim 1} depositing an ink composition onto a recording medium to form an image on the recording medium/.

~~wherein the ink composition according to any one of claims 1 to 11 or the ink composition in the ink set according to any one of claims 12 to 18 is used as the ink composition.~~

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A3
20. An ink jet recording method comprising the step of: ejecting and depositing droplets of an ink composition onto a recording medium to form an image on the recording medium,

wherein the ink composition according to any one of claims 1 to 11 or the ink composition in the ink set according to any one of claims 12 to 18 is used as the ink composition.

21. A recorded medium obtained by the method according to claim 19 ~~or 20~~.

Add
A1
Add
D2